Numb. 5.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *August* 24. to Thursday *August* 31. 1710.

The *Gazette* and *Tatler* of *Auguſt* the 12th, compar'd.

——Facies non una duabus,
Nec diverſa tamen; qualem decet eſſe ſororum.

I Have been ſo engaged of late with Mr. *Pett--m*, and other Perſons of Rank and Figure, that I had not time to pay my Reſpects to two Writers of my own Form. This ſhould have been done ſooner; becauſe 'tis the Misfortune of us *Half-Sheet* Authors, that one of our Productions is in danger of being forgotten, before another appears. We are like thoſe little Animals (mention'd by grave Writers) that are born, and live, and dye within the Compaſs of a Day. If we pleaſe or amuſe our Readers at *Tom*'s or at *Will*'s, between Sun and Sun, 'tis ſufficient; but our Fame ſeldom laſts till late in the Evening; and the very Remembrance of us is uſually loſt by the next Morning. However, 'tis not I hope too late to take Notice of *two* Papers, that are now above a Fortnight old, ſince the Subject on which they are written is conſiderable enough, to keep them in being a little longer, than their ordinary Term of Life.

We had lately News of a great Action in *Spain*, where for ſome Years the War has been carry'd on very *calmly*, and we were overjoy'd with the Succeſs that attended Her Majeſty's Arms there. I had the Curioſity to read all the Accounts that were given of it; but was more particularly pleas'd with the Relation, which the *Gazetteer* and the *Tatler* of the ſame Day (as indeed theſe *two* Authors are never aſunder) oblig'd us with.

Nothing can be more Inſtructive or Entertaining than to ſee in how different a Manner, and with what a variety of Stile, two eminent Pens may imploy themſelves on the ſame Subject. We equally admire the ſame *Catiline*, as he is drawn either by *Cicero* or *Saluſt*: And after we have read that fine Deſcription of the Battle of *Cannæ* in *Polybius*, we are not leſs pleas'd to read it over again in *Livy*. Nay, the different Portraitures of King *CHARLES* I. done by the ſame maſterly Hand of *Vandyke*, are more entertaining to a judicious Eye, than the Figures of two ſeveral Perſons, that have no manner of Reſemblance. The happy Mixture of Diverſity and Agreement, the Art of ſo drawing the ſame Piece, as that it ſhall be both like and unlike it ſelf, conveys an exquiſite Pleaſure to him, whoſe Taſte is nice enough to reliſh it. Something of this Delight I found in comparing my two weekly Friends: And becauſe the beſt way of improving a Pleaſure is to communicate it, I will give my Reader a Specimen of thoſe different Beauties, with which they have deſcribed the ſame Action.

Gaz.] *Five thouſand Men of his Catholick Majeſty's Troops, under General* Weſel, *in the* Lampourdan, *were on their march.*——

Tat.] *Five thouſand Men were on their march, in the* Lampourdan, *under the Command of Gen.* Weſel, *having receiv'd Order from his Catholick Majeſty.*——

Gaz.] *His Catholick Majeſty order'd General* Stanhope *to march with* 14 *Squadrons of Horſe.*——

Gaz.] *To diſturb the Enemy in their Paſſage of the River* Segra *and* Noguera, *between* Lerida *and* Balaguer——

Gaz.] *All the Horſe on both ſides came to a general Engagement.*——

Gaz.] *The Duke of* Anjou *retir'd to* Lerida.——

Tat.] *The King of* Spain *commanded General* Stanhope *with a Body of Horſe conſiſting of* 14 *Squadrons.*--

Tat.] *To prevent their Paſſage over the River* Segra *and* Noguera, *between* Lerida *and* Balaguer.——

Tat.] *The Battle improv'd to a general Engagement of the Cavalry of both Armies.*——

Tat.] *That Prince was retiring towards* Lerida.--

When I reflect upon theſe different Turns of Expreſſion, equally Graceful, equally Numerous, I cannot but condemn the Judgment of *Longinus*, and the reſt of the *Greek Criticks*, who would perſuade us, that after a correct Writer has adjuſted the due Order of his Words, there can be no Change of 'em but for the worſe. We have here before us a plain Inſtance to the contrary, of two polite Authors, who relating the ſame Action have fallen upon much the ſame Words, and yet have been ſo happy in the different way of ranging them, as to make it doubtful, whoſe Periods are moſt Harmonious, whoſe Narrative moſt Beautiful.

Whether *Lampourdan* ſounds beſt at the Beginning or End of the Sentence? Whether 14 *Squadrons of Horſe*, or *a Body of Horſe conſiſting of* 14 *Squadrons*, has a better Cadence? Whether their Paſſage *OF the River*, or their *Paſſage OVER the River*, is more Elegant and Tuneful, I defy any Critick living to determine. Many Obſervations might be made on theſe parallel Places; I ſatisfy my ſelf in giving the Hint, but I will leave my Reader the Pleaſure of purſuing and improving it.

We ſee how exactly theſe two Genius's agree in their Narrative: They move together in an amicable Way, Hand in Hand, and like the *Two Kings in the Rehearſal*, ſmell to the ſame *Noſegay*. But their different Characters oblige them to part here: The *Gazeteeer*, after the Matter of Fact is over, goes off the Stage; He is a *judicious Hiſtorian*: The *Tatler* muſt ſtay to refine a little and reflect; he is a *diverting Wit*: And the Heroick Scene being over, he enlivens you with a little *Farce* in the *Poſtſcript*. The *Favourers*, ſays he, *of the Houſe of* Bourbon *amongſt us*, (*i. e.* thoſe of them that live at *Milan*, whence this Letter is dated) *affirm, That this* Stanhope, *that could us it were get out of his Sick Bed, to Fight againſt the King of* Spain, *muſt be of the Antimonarchical Party.*

Could

Cou'd as it were get out of his Sick-Bed, is very Elegant; but might have miſled us to think, that he did *not* get out of his Bed, if we had not been told before, that *his Joy ſurmounted his Weakneſs*. It puts me in mind of an *Epitaph* upon the old *Organiſt* at *Lincoln*,

——Jacet hic Ioannes,
Organa namque loqui fecerat ille Quaſi.

Which was thus tranſlated in thoſe Days,

——John *lies here*,
Who made the Organ for to ſpeak, or **as it were**

But this General we allow, did get out of his Bed and Fight; and we ſhou'd be ready to give him the Praiſes due to ſo gallant an Action: But that the *Tatler* ſeems to inſinuate, That none but the *Whigs* have any Right to commend him. The *Favourers of the Houſe of* Bourbon *affirm*, That this Action muſt be done by *one of the Antimonarchical Party*. Is every one *Antimonarchical*, that beats theſe *Bourbonites*? For what a rigid *Republican* muſt they take him, who gave *France* that terrible Blow at *Wynnendale*? And what a *Monarchical High-Flyer* muſt he be reckon'd, who was pleas'd to loſe *Spain* at *Almanſa*? But why muſt Mr. *Stanhope* be of the *Antimonarchical Party*? becauſe he Fights by the Commiſſion of one *Monarch*, for the Eſtabliſhment of another upon his Throne? I dare ſay, King *Charles* has no Deſign of ſetting up a *Republick* in *Spain*; and I gueſs by ſome late *Phænomena* (for I deal with the Stars too, *Iſaac*) that Her Majeſty will be able to *prevent* one here.

But let General *Stanhope*'s Principles be what they will, Are you ſure he will thank you for making ſo free with them in his Abſence? Methinks no good Servant of the Queen's ſhou'd be pleas'd with being thought an Enemy to *Monarchy*. Or if you have leave to call him what *Names* you pleaſe (which I very much queſtion) why are his Politicks brought in upon this Occaſion? What have Notions of Government to do with Conduct and Courage in the Field? If we had had, during this War, twenty thouſand more *Engliſh-men* in *Spain*, I am of Opinion the *Favourers of the Houſe of* Bourbon wou'd have run away long ago, without asking what *Party* they were of. I fancy too, if the *Muſter-Rolls* of theſe 14 Squadrons at the *Segra* were view'd, they wou'd not *All* be found *Antimonarchical*: I dare anſwer for the *German Horſe*, that they have never thoroughly conſider'd this Point.

I have enquir'd of *Jacob* and *Kidney*, and two or three more of your Friends, and they tell me that the only Reaſon, why you give Mr. *Stanhope* this Title of *Antimonarchical*, is, becauſe he quoted a *Republican* Author in the Trial laſt Winter. But perhaps the *General* is not highly oblig'd to you for going ſo much out of your way, to put us in mind of the *Orator*. I can't think he wou'd take it ill, if a Man ſhou'd venture to ſay, That he makes a better Figure in the *Field* than at the *Bar*, and can lead Troops with more Succeſs than he can plead a Cauſe. Wou'd Sir *Simon Harcourt*, or if you had rather, Sir *James Mountague*, be angry, were it ſaid, That they are not ſo well vers'd in *Battles* and *Sieges*, as they are in *Eloquence* and *Argument*? Or that either of them cou'd defend a Town, or manage a Campaign, with that Dexterity and Preſence of Mind, as one of them vindicated the *Rights of the Crown*, and the other complemented the Noble Lord upon the WOOL PACK!

The Earl of Rochfort *and Count* Naſſau *fell in this Action*: And for fear no Body in *England* ſhou'd know it, we are told from *Milan* whoſe Sons they were: *And that their Fathers had a great place in the Confidence of the late King* William, *by whom they were Enobled*. We remember very well their Titles, and when they had them; and becauſe your Talent lies more in foretelling what *ſhall* be, than in recording what *has* been, let me inform you, 'twas under a *Tory Miniſtry*, and while ſeveral Great Men were in the Confidence of King *William*, who were afterwards ſupplanted by ſome of your *Antimonarchical* Gentlemen. In one Word, a Son of Mr. *Overkirk* muſt be univerſally lamented, as well for his Father's Merit as his own. We are ſorry too for the loſs of the Earl of *Rochfort*; but I am afraid, *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*, who now complements him with the Title of *Heroick Youth*, has forgot the *Tatler* of *Tun*, *Gun*, and *Piſtol*.

After all, *Iſaac*, tho' I have us'd this Freedom with you, I wou'd not have you take me for your Enemy; I am one of your *two Guinea Subſcribers*, and conſequently (if I may take your Word for it in your *Dedication*) am a Perſon *eminent* for *Wit*, *Beauty*, *Valour*, or *Wiſdom*, ſome one or more of 'em. And if you in your turn will take my Word, I aſſure you, I have been very well entertain'd with ſeveral of your Papers; and have given them their juſt Commendation to many of my Ingenious and Learned, but I muſt own, *Monarchical* Friends. No Body deſires more than I do, that you ſhou'd go on to expoſe Vice and Folly, and recommend Morality and Virtue, as agreeably as you can, and as often as you pleaſe. My Advice to you is only this, That you wou'd ſtill appear in your proper Sphere; and not quit a Character which has giv'n you ſome Credit, to take up another that does not in the leaſt become you. Give me leave to tell you, you miſtake your Talent, whenever you meddle with Matters of *State*; your Jeſt pleaſes no Body, when it reflects upon the *Conſtitution*, under which you live. Don't magnify your *Conſtellation* of Worthies to that degree, as if the World were to be left in Darkneſs, if any of thoſe *Shining Lights* ſhou'd be withdrawn. *Eclipſes* you ſee have happen'd, which you did not foretel: Begin to take care of your ſelf; remember the Fate of one of your Predeceſſors, and don't gaze at Your *Stars*, 'till you fall into a *Ditch*. No more of your *Politick Lucubrations*; put out your Candle; favour your Age; and go to Bed ſooner.

——Nam TUA Cœlo
Præcipitant, ſuadentq; Cadentia ſydera ſomnos.

P. S. The *Tatler*, in his laſt, promiſes us, that as the Town fills he will be *Wittier*: I am ſorry, for his ſake, it has been empty ſo long. I believe he will be ſhortly as good as his Word, for his Friends, I hear, are coming from *Ireland*. I expect too, ſome of my Friends from the ſame Country; and as he is to be New-rigg'd out for a Wit, ſo I don't queſtion, but that there will from thence too come freſh Materials for an *Examiner*.

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